

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /113 W

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P R 241106Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5050

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDAO SAIGON

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CO 7TH PSYOP
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CINCUSARPAC
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 13366

E.O. 11652: GDS
TWGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS
SUBJECT: EMBASSY SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY, JULY 17-24, 1973
BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;
DOD PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SEVERAL PROVINCES
CANADIAN ICCS MEMBERS PREPARE TO LEAVE
PRISONER EXCHANGES BEGIN AGAIN
17TH GVN/PRG BILATERAL SESSION
GVN COMMEMORATES DAY OF SHAME
JAPANESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES
HANOI NOTES AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S ARRIVAL, REPORTS DEPARTURE
OF MINESWEEPING FLOTILLA
PRC GRANTS "URGENT" ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE VIET CONG
MODEST PRICE INCREASES FOR THE WEEK

I - INTERNAL
A. THE CEASEFIRE

1. COUNTRYWIDE, THE LEVEL OF COMBAT IS UP. FIGHTING
INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN MR 1, WITH FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRE NORTH
OF THE HAI VAN PASS REGISTERED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PAST
THREE WEEKS. COMBAT DECLINED SLIGHTLY IN MR 2. RVNAF OPERA-
TIONS WEST OF KONTUM CITY CONTINUED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS. IN MR 3, THE NUMBER AND INTENSITY OF MILITARY
ACTIONS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. ACTIVITY CENTERED ON BINH
DUONG, WHERE ARVN ELEMENTS ARE SEEKING TO REOPEN TO GVN
VEHICLES & LAND ROUTE TO PHUOC BINH, THE HEADQUARTERS TOWN OF
NEIGHBORING PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. MOST OF THE FIGHTING IN THE
DELTA, WHERE THE OVERALL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY WAS ALSO UP THIS
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WEEK, OCCURRED IN VINH LONG AND DINH TUONG.

2. DURING THE PAST WEEK THERE HAS BEEN A DECREASE IN ICCS
FIELD OPERATIONS AS THE CANADIANS COMPLETED FINAL PREPARATIONS
FOR DEPARTURE. (SEE PART II BELOW FOR AN ACCOUNT OF CANADIAN
AMBASSADOR GAUVIN'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT AND THE COMMUNIST
REACTION.) THERE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSIONS OF FRUSTRATION AND
RESTLESSNESS DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING REPLACEMENT

FOR THE CANDIANS AND DUE TO THE MOUNTING FINANCIAL CRISIS. GVN SPOKESMEN CONTINUE TO GIVE NONCOMMITTAL RESPONSES TO PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT CANADA'S REPLACEMENT. THE ICCS SUB-REGION TEAM AT TRI TON IN CHAU DOC DECIDED TO EVACUATE THE SITE JULY 23 AFTER TWO MORTAR ROUNDS FELL WITHIN THE COMPOUND, CAUSING SOME DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES.

3. THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS ON THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) REGARDING PRISONER RELEASE (SEE PARA B BELOW). THE ISSUE OF DESIGNATING PICKUP SITES FOR PRG PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD CONTINUES IN DISPUTE. EACH SIDE CONSIDERS THIS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUE. DISCUSSION CONTINUES ABOUT DESPATCHING A TPJMC TEAM TO VISIT ARSIS OF COMBAT AT KONTUM AND THE BESEIGED ARVN CAMP AT TONG LE CHAM.

4. THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT) REMAINS AT AN IMPASSE ON ALL MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES REGARDING THE SEARCH FOR AND REPATRIATION OF REMAINS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT THE HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT DEADLOCK MAY BE BROKEN.

5. ON JULY 23, 1973, THE US/DRV JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, WHICH RESUMED MEETING IN PARIS JUNE 18, TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS, IN ORDER TO REPORT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED.

B. PRISONER EXCHANGES BEGIN AGAIN

6. RETURNING OF ALL THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PRISONERS REMAINING ON THE ORIGINAL LISTS OF BOTH THE GVN AND THE PRG BEGAN ON JULY 23. THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE AGREED TO BY THE TPJMC LAST WEEK CALLED FOR THE GVN TO RETURN 2,440 CIVILIANS AT LOC NINH AND 1,891 CIVILIANS (TOTAL 4,331) AND 33 MILITARY AT THIEN NGON, TAY NINH BY JULY 28. DURING THE SAME TIME
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FRAME, THE PRG IS TO RETURN 410 MILITARY PW AT DUC NGHIEP, PLEIKU PROVINCE AND 252 CIVILIAN DETAINEES AT 11 OTHER SITES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE GVN BEGAN RETURNING DETAINEES AS SCHEDULED JULY 23 WITH SOME SLIPPAGE AS ONLY 600 OF THE 900 SCHEDULED WERE RELEASED. OF THE NUMBER RELEASED, 43 REFUSED TO GO TO THE PRG AND WERE RETURNED TO SAIGON WHERE THEY WILL PRESUMABLY BE ENROLLED IN THE CHIEU HOI PROGRAM.

7. THE GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN BUI BAO TRUC INITIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT TRAN NGOC CHAU, HUYN VAN TRONG AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THAI PRG JULY 23, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY CORRECTED HIMSELF SAYING THEY WOULD NOT BE RETURNED UNTIL LATER IN THE WEEK. LTG PHAM QUOC THUAN, CHIEF OF THE GVNDEL, TPJMC CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS ON JULY 23 THAT THE GVN HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM CHAU AND SOME OF THE OTHERS STATING

THEIR DESIRE TO REMAIN WITH THE RVN, BUT FEARING THAT THE PRG WOULD NOT BELIEVE THIS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO TO LOC NING AND OPENLY DECLARE THEIR INTENTION NOT TO GO WITH THE PRG IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ICCS. MADAME NGO BA THANH HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM THE LIST OF PEOPLE TO BE PRESENTED AT THE RELEASE SITE, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE PRG DEL FLATELY DECLARED THAT SHE WAS "NOT ONE OF THEIRS" IN A RECENT TPJMC SESSION.

C. HOA HAO DIGNITARY ASSASSINATED

8. ON JULY 20, HO THAI NGAN, FIRST DEPUTY OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HOA HAO BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (TUONG FACTION) WAS KILLED BY TWO ASSASSINS. LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE MURDER TO BE THE RESULT OF A HOA HAO.

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /113 W

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P R 241106Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5051

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAFKCMC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 13366

INTRAMURAL SQUABBLE, BUT THE GVN IS LAYING THE CRIME AT THE
DOOR OF "COMMUNIST TERRORISTS".

D. DAN CHU: A NEWSPAPER TO WATCH

9. DAN CHU, THE NEWLY OPENED NEWSPAPER OF PRESIDENT
THIEU'S DEMOCRACY PARTY (DP), HAS NOT UNEXPECTEDLY PROVED TO
BE A PRIME SOURCE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES
AND PLANS OF THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION. THE JULY 24
EDITION CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE STORY ON A POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT
PLAN TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF SOLDIERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS
BY 25 PERCENT AT A COST OF 70 BILLION PIASTERS TO THE NATIONAL
BUDGET. AN EARLIER STORY REPORTED THAT THE GVN IS ALSO
CONSIDERING THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMODITIES TO CIVIL SERVANTS
AND SOLDIERS. ANOTHER JULY 24 EXCLUSIVE REPORTS A JULY 21
SPEECH BY PRESIDENT THIEU TO 1,000 DP CADRE AT VUNG TAU DURING
WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE WOULD BE
IMPOSED ON AREAS "TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED" BY THE COMMUNISTS.
THIEU ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE RVN WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE
MEASURES AGAINST NATIONS RECOGNIZING THE NLF SINCE COMMUNIST-
HELD AREAS ARE LEGALLY UNDER RVN JURISDICTION.

PART II. EXTERNAL

A. GVN/PRG BILATERALS REACH 17TH PLENARY SESSION

ATH THE 17TH PLENARY SESSION ON JULY 18 OF THE GVN/PRG
BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS CALLED FOR BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE
PRG PROPOSED A 22 POINT "BILL OF RIGHTS" GUARANTEEING DEMOCRATIC
FREEDOMS IN BOTH ZONES OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE GVN DELEGATION
MERELY REPEATED ITS PREVIOUS PROPOSALS OF JUNE 28 AND JULY 4
WHICH AGAIN SET FORTH THE GVN OBJECTIVE OF A PHASED POLITICAL
SETTLEMENT, ACCORDING TO A FIXED SCHEDULE, AND CULMINATING IN
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GENRAL ELECTIONS.

B. GVN REACTION TO BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN RECOGNITION OF
NORTH VIET-NAM

ON JULY 18 THE GVN SPOKESMAN REPEATED THE WELL KNOWN
GVN VIEW THAT THIRD COUNTRIES' ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH
NORTH VIET-NAM DID NOT AFFECT THOSE COUNTRIES' RELATIONS WITH
THE GVN. THE SPOKESMAN SAID, AS HE HAS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS,
THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS WEST GERMANY, THE UK AND AUSTRALIA,
HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE THE GVN AS
THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. (SAIGON 13068).

C. GVN AGAIN PROTESTS FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED AN ORAL
STATEMENT TO PRESS ON JULY 23 CAUTIONING FRANCE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL

DANGERS OF ITS PLANNED NUCLEAR TESTS. A PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUE
ON JUNE 28 (SAIGON 11964, WEEKA) HAD PROTESTED BOTH FRENCH AND
CHINESE NUCLEAR TESTING.

D. GVN COMMEMORATES DAY OF SHAME

AS IT DOES EVERY YEAR, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON JULY 20, THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DIVISION OF VIET-NAM BY THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORDS
(SAIGON 13130). THE COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCES NORTH VIET-NAM
AND THE PRG FOR THEIR YEARS OF AGGRESSION AND THEIR FAILURE
TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GVN ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THE
SOUTH. IT CONCLUDES BY CALLING ON NORTH VIET-NAM TO
FOLLOW THE EXAMPLES OF NORTH KOREA AND EAST GERMANY, ACCEPT
TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THE REUNIFICATION OF VIET-NAM, AND
PENDING REUNIFICATION, PERMIT VIET-NAM TO ASSUME ITS ROLE
IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. (COMMENT: THE REFERENCES TO
GERMAN AND KOREAN ATTITUDES TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN AND
THE APPEAL FOR THE DRV TO ALLOW VIET-NAM TO RENEWED
INTERNATIONAL ROLE APPEAR TO INDICATE THE GVN'S
WILLINGNESS FOR BOTH VIET-NAMS TO JOIN THE UN, AND THE GVN
SPOKESMAN ON JULY 21 SPOKE ABOUT PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS OF THE
GVN TO JOIN THE UN WHICH HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE USSR.

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HOWEVER, THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DO NOT FORESEE ANY RENEWED GVN ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE UN. THREE DAYS AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF THE ABOVE COMMUNIQUE, THE GVN SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT NO REPLY FROM NORTH VIET-NAM HAD BEEN RECEIVED.)

E. JAPANESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES

A JAPANESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVED JULY 20 TO SPEND ONE WEEK VISITING VIET-NAM AND ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE JAPANESE AID.

F. CANADIAN ICCS CHIEF DELEGATE DEPARTS

THE CANDEL AMBASSADOR GAUVIN DEPARTED FOR HOME ON JULY 19. IN HIS FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE HE BLAMED THE HUNGDEL/ POLDEL'S HIGHLY PARTIAL ADVOCACY OF THE PRG/DRV AS THE BASIC REASON FOR THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF ICCS. CANADA'S REPUTATION AS AN IMPARTIAL PEACE OBSERVER WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY REMAINING ON ICCS. HE NOTED THAT THE KEY TO PEACE IN VIET-NAM IS HELD BY THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA. HE ACCUSED THE PRG AS BEING "UNCIVILIZED AND PRIMITIVE" FOR DETAINING THE TWO CANADIAN OFFICERS.

THE PRG RESPONDED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 21 ACCUSING GAUVIN OF USING "WORDS NOT WORTHY OF AN AMBASSADOR" AND NOTING "THAT THE CANADIAN PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO JUDGE WHAT GAUVIN HAS DONE AND WILL THUS COMMENT ON HIS INCORRECT ATTITUDE."

G. PRG AND GVN ON NEED FOR REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA ON ICCS

BOTH PRG AND GVN HAVE MADE STATEMENTS ON NEED FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR CANDEL AND BOTH SEEM TO AGREE THAT ICCS CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT A FOURTH MEMBER.

H. DRV DELEGATION IN WARSAW

AFTER SPENDING A WEEK IN BOTH MOSCOW AND BUDAPEST, THE HIGH-LEVEL DRV DELEGATION HEADED BY PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG ARRIVED IN WARSAW ON JULY 23. THE FIRST TWO STOPS WERE MARKED BY THE USUAL ROUNDS OF TALKS, RALLIES AND FIELD TRIPS AND

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /113 W

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P R 241106Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5052

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 SAIGON 13366

CONCLUDED WITH TYPICALLY NON-REVEALING COMMUNIQUE. BOTH THE USSR AND HUNGARY WROTE OFF HANOI'S PAST DEBTS AND SIGNED NEW AID AGREEMENTS WITH THE DRV. THE SOVIETS "IN PRINCIPLE" AND THE HUNGARIANS, PRESUMABLY, IN FACT. MOSCOW SEEMED TO MOVE A BIT CLOSER TO HANOI'S PREFERRED FORMULATION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE PRG, REFERRING TO THE VIET CONG APPARATUS AS THE BODY WHICH ALONE GENUINELY EXPRESSES THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE "PEOPLE." HANOI, ITSELF, WOULD HAVE IT THAT THE PRG IS THE "SLOE LIGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE" OF THOSE PEOPLE. FROM WARSAW, DONG AND HIS RETINUE ARE SCHEDULED TO GO ON TO BUCHAREST. MEANWHILE, VWP FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN, THE DRV'S MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL FIGURE, WILL APPARENTLY CONTINUE HIS "VACATION" IN THE USSR. DUAN DID NOT MAKE THE TRIP TO BUDAPEST AND WARSAW AND, THUS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE WILL SIMILARLY DISDAIN THE BUCHAREST LEG OF THE JOURNEY. DUAN'S ACTIVITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION SINCE DONG'S DEPARTURE HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED.

I. BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER IN HANOI

DRV MEDIA REPORTED THAT DR. KAMAL HUSSAIN, FOREIGN MINISTER OF BANGLANDESH, ARRIVED IN HANOI ON JULY 19. HE WAS WELCOMED AT THE AIRPORT BY HIS DRV COUNTERPART NGUYEN DUY TRINH AND, ON JULY 21, WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT TON DUC THSNG.

J. HANOI NOTES AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S ARRIVAL

HANOI RADIO, IN A JULY 21 DOMESTIC SERVICE BROADCAST, REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAD OFFICIALLY ASSUMED HIS POST WITH THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT THIEU ON JULY 20. THE BROADCAST IGNORED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON THE OCCASION BUT CONCLUDED THAT "MARTIN'S ARGUMENTS, AIMED AT COVERING UP THE AGGRESSIVE US CONFIDENTIAL

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CRIMES, ALSO REVEALED THAT THE UNITED STATES STILL CONTINUED TO CLING TO THIEU AS A TOOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF US NEOCOLONIALISM IN SOUTH VIET-NAM."

K. HANOI REPORTS DEPARTURE OF END-SWEEP FLOTILLA

ON JULY 19 HANOI RADIO STATED THAT REAR ADMIRAL MCCAULEY HAD NOTIFIED DRV OFFICIALS OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ENDSEEPP ASSETS FROM DRV TERRITORIAL WATERS EFFECTIVE 1830 HOURS JULY 18. THE BROADCAST NOTED THAT, AS OF JULY 5,

THE US HAD INFORMED THE DRV THAT MINE DEACTIVATION PROCEDURES HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN 10 DIFFERENT CHANNELS. IT AVERRED, HOWEVER, THAT THE US IS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR "PENDING MATTERS" (PRESUMABLY MEANING OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INLAND WATERWAYS) AS STIPULATED IN THE JANUARY PROTOCOL AND JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

L. DRV-NORTH KOREAN SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT SIGNED.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) REPORTED ON JULY 19 THAT AN AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DURING 1973-1994 HAD BEEN SIGNED IN HANOI ON JULY 16 BY HAN HYON-KON FOR THE DPRK AND LE KHAC FOR THE DRV.

M. PRC GRANTS "URGENT" ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIET CONG

CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST MEDIA REPORTED THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED IN PEKING ON JULY 19 CALLING FOR "EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTARY FREE ECONOMIC AID" TO THE VIET CONG'S PRG DURING 1973. (COMMENT: THE NATURE OF THE "EMERGENCY" WAS NOT SPECIFIED. NOR ARE WE AWARE OF THE PRVIOUS AID PACT THAT THE PRESENT AGREEMENT SUPPOSEDLY "SUPPLEMENTS". FROM THE CHINESE POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, THE SIGNING COMES AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT, THAT IS ON THE HEELS OF THE HIGH LEVEL DRV VISIT TO MOSCOW. INDEED, PEKING MAY BE IMPLICITLY CONTRASTING ITS "URGENT" AID TO THE PRG AND ITS FIRM AID AGREEMENT WITH THE DRV REACHED DURING LE DUAN'S VISIT TO CHINA LAST MONTH WITH MOSCOW'S MORE VAGUE, "INPRINCIPLE" COMMITMENT TO AID THE DRV UNDERTAKEN DURING DUAN'S SOJOURN TO THE USSR.) (SEE ABOVE).

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N. EE ENVOYS ACCREDITED TO PRG

BUCHAREST RADIO ANNOUNCED ON JULY 16 THAT PATRE TANASIE, ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI, HAS BEEN ACCREDITED TO THE PRG (VIET CONG). HANOI RADIO, IN ITS JULY 21 PRESS SUMMARY, STATED THAT LADISLAV JETMAR, CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO BURMA, HAD ALSO BEEN ACCREDITED TO THE PRG. (SEE ALSO PRAGUE'S 1707, JULY 20, 1973).

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III. ECONOMIC

A. PRICES

THE USAID SAIGON RETAIL PRICE INDEX ROSE FOR THE TWELFTH CONSECUTIVE WEEK, BUT THE INCREASE WAS ONLY A MODEST 0.4

PERCENT. PRICES FOR ALL BUT A FEW ITEMS REMAINED THE SAME OR DECLINED. ALTHOUGH RICE PRICES CONTINUED UPWARD 2 PERCENT MORE, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE RICE TRADE WAS GETTING BACK TO NORMAL. SHRIMP, DUCG EGGS AND SEVERAL VEGETABLE PRICES POSTED DECREASES, BUT SUGAR PRICES WENT UP 8 PERCENT AS RUMORS CONTINUED TO SPREAD THAT OFFICIAL PRICE INCREASES ARE PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. THE NON-FOOD SIDE OF THE INDEX SHOWED NO CHANGES EXCEPT FOR A 2 PERCENT INCREASE IN LAUNDRY SOAP AND A 3 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF WOMEN'S SHOES.

B. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD PRICES

THE BLACK MARKET CURRENCY QUOTES FOR \$100 GREEN AND \$10 GREEN DROPPED SLIGHTLY FROM 500:1 AND 495:1 ON JULY 16 TO 498:1 AND 493:1 ON JULY 23. GOLD LEAF PRICES REMAINED THE SAME, 53,500 PIASTERS PER TAEI OR, AT THE LEGAL EXCHANGE RATE, THE EQUIVALENT OF US\$ 88.75 PER TROY OUNCE. THE HK\$/VN\$ CROSS RATE WITH HK\$/US\$ SLIPPED FROM 498 TO 492.

MARTIN

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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK BUDAPEST CANBERRA JAKARTA LONDON MANILA MOSCOW
Type: TE
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